In Shibam, masons earn a dollar a day, and their assistants from half to five-eighths of a dollar. Carpenters also receive a dollar a day.

Mr. Heald writes:—

"The general diet in the hill villages consisted of rice (when procurable), dates, and millet bread, and the dried fish carried up from Mukalla on camels; vegetables were very scarce. During the war, when supplies were cut off from Aden and India, the people suffered very much from the lack of grain, as the country could not supply their normal requirements.

"Coffee was unknown in the hills and its place was taken by the gingerly and carraway seed; tobacco was not so much used by the Beduins as by the Mukalla people, who smoked it in home-made hookahs, but all chewed ground-up tobacco leaves mixed with carbonate of soda and even the ashes from the fire; no doubt a call from nature to supply the lack of lime in their rice diet, as the Betel nut chewing in Ceylon. . . .

"Where labour was employed—which was extremely rare—the hire was generally paid by kind; town labour was usually one rupee per diem, and I heard that by piece-work in the stone cutting a man earned up to two rupees a day; our camp labourer received ten rupees a month and food."

Women in the Hadhramaut.

Well-to-do women live in complete seclusion, never going outside unless heavily veiled. They spend their days in the harem, where they superintend the servants in haphazard fashion, sew their clothes, or drink tea and gossip with their friends. Up to 10 years of age the girls are free to come and go as they please, but then they take to the veil, and usually are married when they are about 13 or 14. The chief amusements of the harem are weddings, visits to the fairs held in honour of some saint, or occasional excursions either by car or on foot to a neighbour's house. Like the rest of the women in the Hadhramaut the rich are nearly all illiterate and have but the vaguest idea of the world outside, though an interest in what is going on beyond their walls is not lacking. But, as one would expect, clothes and jewelry are among their principal distractions.

There are a certain number of women, Malay and Chinese, from Java and Singapore in the country, who apparently live an existence of utter boredom; thanks to them, foreign fashions in dress are popular, but only among the wealthy families. Although a few women from abroad have come into the Hadhramaut, it is very rare to hear of a Hadhrami woman leaving her country, though there are some to be found in Aden, and they occasionally make the journey to Mecca.

The tribeswomen lead a very much harder life than their sisters in the towns, and are of greater economic importance to their country. From an early age they are sent out to guard the flocks,

1:Ingrams G-5 (1934-35)1936 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

462 roaming far afield in search of water and pasture. They work in the fields, milk the animals (with the exception, in some cases, of camels), gather the firewood, and fetch the water. They are not so careful to keep themselves veiled, finding it sufficient to draw their head cloths in front of their mouths. If she belongs to a nomadic tribe a woman will follow her husband in his search for grazing, carrying the household utensils, usually one large saucepan, on her head and the baby on her back. Only very occasionally do the women emigrate with their husbands, but we travelled with such a family on the start of their journey to Zanzibar to seek a fortune.

562 The remaining women are those of the poor townspeople, the 462 female servants, slaves, or Subians. The last two are least particular about veiling. The others, no matter how poor, will always cover at least the lower part of their faces. Toil is the portion of all of them: they labour in the gardens, help the men and animals to draw water from the wells, and in many towns they are the principal water carriers, bearing their burden in skins slung across their backs. The servants and slave women in well-to-do houses lead an easier existence. They cook the food, do such cleaning as is ever done, and fetch and carry for the ladies of the household. Slaves may be taken as concubines, but find their husbands among their own class. They are much favoured, being brought up as members of the family, and, like many privileged retainers, usually become somewhat outspoken and domineering in their old age.

CHAPTER VII.

PRODUCTION AND RESOURCES OF THE HADHRAMAUT.

311 The natural resources of the Hadhramaut, such as they are, are principally agricultural. It is perhaps unnecessary to emphasize that only a very small proportion of the total area of the country, which may amount to 35,000 or 40,000 square miles, is suitable for the growing of crops. As a general rule only wadis can be so used and the bulk of the land surface consists of the barren rock of mountains and steppes.

Tobacco.

249 The principal crop of economic importance is the well-known 438 Hamumi tobacco, and Gheil ba Wazir is the principal centre where 655 it is grown. Practically speaking the production in that place is entirely Government-directed and all the land is State land.

The nurseries are situated about three miles from Gheil at Al 312 Quf. Here there is an apparently inexhaustible, somewhat brackish, water supply at depths to about 30 feet from the surface. There are three deep pools which are tapped by subterranean channels for Gheil and Al Harth, the source of the Gheil water supply being called Humat al Farath, and that for Al Harth being called Humat al Harth. Along the line of channels from these pools there are